

raymond fiske

---

From: "raymond fiske" <rfspeed@charter.net>  
To: <Sen.Carpenter@legis.wisconsin.gov>  
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2007 3:15 PM  
Subject: no

WE CAN'T SMOKE ANY PLACE, BUT IT'S OK TO BREAK  
ONE OF THE AMENDMENTS. THE BILL OF RIGHTS,  
THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE. ALSO I GUESS IT'S OK TO  
SELL  
THEM AND MAKE MILLIONS OF TAX DOLLARS. THATS  
NO  
DIFFERENT THEN A DRUG DEALER ON THE STREET.  
AND  
ONE MORE THING. WHEN THE PRESIDENT IS TOLD  
THAT  
CIGARETTES ARE KILLING MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HE  
RESPONDS WITH

THE PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT  
TO CHOOSE

RAYMOND FISKE

5/24/2007



**raymond fiske**

---

**From:** "raymond fiske" <rfspeed@charter.net>  
**To:** <Sen.Carpenter@legis.wisconsin.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 25, 2007 4:28 PM  
**Subject:** SB 150 - VOTE NO

PLEASE VOTE NO!!!

More & more of our rights to CHOOSE are being taken away. If you make it illegal to smoke in the taverns/bars, then why is it legal to even sell cigarettes? Not to mention all the tax revenues collected by the government. The decisions should always be left up to the owners of these businesses. I look forward to stopping in at the neighborhood tavern/bar. It's part of our social life. The people in these bars are just like me. Wanting to stop and relax for awhile after work, and getting to know your neighbors. I do not feel comfortable in the large chain taverns. They are not a relaxing place to go.

I'm sure many people do not care about the small, neighborhood taverns, but these owners are the ones who suffer. Many will end up closing - ending their livelihood. It's not fair to exempt private clubs, casino's and cigar bars. What makes them different?

When I received a form letter from Doyle, stating it's for the children's health, why are these children even in these taverns/bar? To me it's just another excuse. Instead of worrying about the smoking issue, I believe there are many more important issues to be worked on. Affordable health care, the loss of Education/jobs because of the budget, the loss of small businesses, etc.

PLEASE VOTE NO!!! Stop taking away our rights to choose. If it doesn't stop now, what other rights will they take away from us next? Leave the decisions up to the owners. They know what will make or break their businesses.

Thank You for you time,

Sue - A life long resident, born & raised in Madison.

5/25/2007



To All Legislators:  
Regarding SB150

I feel very nervous to be speaking to all of you. I am a Social Studies Middle School Teacher ~~of 34 years in the~~ Madison District, I teach the Democratic Process.

Addressing SB 150, I appreciate <sup>your</sup> ~~his~~ good intentions. I think SB 150 is taking away a major right of the American people. The so-called "Freedom of Choice".

How does this fare? Business owners are regulated on many levels, but as long as tobacco is a legal substance, and you are collecting revenues from cigarettes Owner's and Employees have Choices! As Governor Doyle stated ten weeks ago:

**I am a reasonable man. I know we don't live in a perfect world,  
Therefore I could image some exemptions.**

Where did our fair Governor go over the past two months? We are NOT California, New York, Minnesota or Illinois. We are Wisconsin, where there is plenty of room for all, these special interests groups that have powerful financial backing will prevail, as Progressive Dane did in Madison.

These special interest groups know by taking smoking out of taverns it will destroy the independent businessperson. They don't care, but they also DO NOT frequent these establishments. As they were called in Fitchburg, "Blue Collar Bars". Give me a real neighborhood bar any day over a corporate chain.

~~I wrote to each of you in January on purple paper, I only heard from Senator Risser.~~ I hope you all are considering ALL the people of your District, not just those that are the loudest.

If SB150 was truly a health issue, the Casinos, Private Clubs and Cigar Bars would not be exempt. Madison's Mayor didn't include these in his brutal smoking ban.

Please do not take away this class of socialization! If you do, you need to tax liquor and regulate what people purchase. If you are wavering please vote "No" on SB150 since no exemptions are allowed. (~~Risser's version~~)

Please let the tavern and bar owners decide for themselves what type of clientele they want to serve, otherwise put it to a statewide referendum and then everyone can be heard.

I'm tired of fighting for our simple rights. As adolescence say, the more laws you make, more laws are made to be broken. You have more important work to be tending too, and please let the owners of their businesses regulate their business! Stop the 'Big Brother' control! Thanks for your time.

*Jaqueline Strick*  
15240 Harbor Ct.  
Madison, WI 53705



Ladies and Gentleman of the Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy, thank you for allowing me to speak. My name is Justin Wilder and I am a 21 year old student at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. At the age of 2 I was diagnosed with asthma, and have been fortunate enough to live comfortably with very few side effects. However, when I go to many of the fine dining establishments of Stevens Point, I find I can't stay for more than an hour due to the smoky atmosphere of the establishment. During the holidays, I am fortunate to live just outside of Madison and can go to any of the dining establishments of Madison without worry of my asthma getting out of control.

Members of the Committee, I ask you to please support Senate Bill 150, with no exceptions! Supporting this bill would dramatically raise the public health standard in our state; which will be followed by other states adopting Smoke-Free Legislation. The fact of this bill is simple: Passing smoke free legislation is good for everyone! According to the Mayo Clinic, "Tobacco Smoking is the most common cause of Lung Cancer...", and is "blamed for 85 to 90 percent of lung cancer cases." For those who work around tobacco smoke, the long term health risks are very real, and no person should have to go to work with the worry of contracting a disease because of tobacco smoke. Once again, I thank you for allowing me to speak, and please support Senate Bill 150 with no exceptions! Thank you.





05/31/2007

Honorable members of the Senate Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy Committee:

I am here today to share my story and strongly urge you to support SB 150.

My story begins in 1988 at a Little Suamico Elementary school assembly where I was named a part of the Smoke-free Class of 2000, meaning that I was to become a symbolic ambassador for a smoke free society. A partnership between the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, and the American Lung Association developed this program to combat the increasing number of youth smokers. As you may or may not know, big tobacco is still targeting the youth of today and children are smoking and getting addicted to cigarettes at increasing rates. By supporting this bill, you will be helping to deter those youth from starting smoking, protect youth who are working in restaurants and other workplaces that currently allow smoking and protect all who patronize establishments.

1994. My grandmother, Rosella Ebert, loses her battle to lung cancer. A lifetime smoker, given 6 months to live when first diagnosed, battled lung cancer for 2 years. Because my mother was the primary caregiver for her, I saw first hand, what someone going through such a horrible disease has to live with. Loss of appetite, everything tasting like metal, and total body weakness were just some of the things that my grandmother had to endure. If SB 150 became law, my grandmother may have quit smoking or not have smoked as much if she were not allowed to smoke at her workplace.

2005. I am getting married to the love of my life. However, most of his family are heavy smokers, and I do not tolerate cigarette smoke well. I even requested a room off our main banquet room reserved just for "those" smokers. The only hard part about knowing his family is the danger that they are putting themselves and their children and other family members in. Josh, my husband, lived in a chain smoker's home for 20 years of his life. Everyday I worry about what is to come of his health because of that. I believe that supporting SB 150 would help decrease the amount of smoke that a "non-smoker" is exposed to everyday and passing this bill may help Josh's family and others quit smoking and better their lives for the future.

Present day. I am the oldest of three. Both of my younger brothers use tobacco products, one smokes, and one chews, and both started when they were minors. It kills me to see them slowing killing themselves- especially that they know what our grandmother went through a few years back. My father has also been known to occasionally light one up, but he claims that he is safe because he "doesn't inhale" which everyone knows is untrue. I am also currently trying with my husband to get pregnant. Knowing what I know about what smoke and second-hand smoke can do to your unborn



child, I will be eating a lot of take out, and will not be going to places that allow smoking, unless SB 150 is passed.

I strongly believe that workplaces in the state of Wisconsin should be smoke-free to prevent these terrible things from happening to someone else's grandmother, father, brothers, and families. If all workplaces are smoke free, this would increase awareness about the dangers of secondhand smoke, while supporting ex smokers who have made the decision to quit.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these life-saving issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jen Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jen" and last name "Thompson" clearly distinguishable.

Jen Thompson  
6529 Reim Road  
Abrams, WI 54101  
(920) 826-7139



## **Senate Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy Committee**

Sen. Tim Carpenter, Chair (D-Milwaukee)  
Sen. Spencer Coggs, V-Chair (D-Milwaukee)  
Sen. Pat Krietlow (D-Chippewa Falls)  
Sen. Dale Schultz (R-Southwest-central Wisconsin)  
Sen. Rob Cowles (R-Green Bay)

Senate Committee Members,

Nine years ago my wife and I adopted our second child, an infant born with a heart congenital condition. When she was seven months old, we spent three weeks at Milwaukee Children's Hospital for her subsequent surgery and intensive care rehabilitation. As part of her continued care then and to this day, the pediatric cardiologist recommended that she (like anyone) avoid places that contain secondhand smoke.

Fast forward a few years and our young daughter who is now leading a healthy life, gets invited to friends' birthday parties as most children do. Our concern however was where these parties were held. Since bowling is a great activity, some parents set up birthday parties at the local bowling alley. Try explaining to a six or seven year old however, that they can't attend a friend's party due to the fact that the location it is held at has an unhealthy atmosphere. It's something they don't really understand and are puzzled as to why a fun place would not be a good place to go to.

Fortunately, in the past few years, we have succeeded in educating other families and our schools that the local alley is not a great place to hold a party due to the fact of the secondhand smoke issue and there are now far fewer parties held at the bowling alley (which I suppose is not good news for them). It is ironic that children and adults participating in a fun recreational activity and getting some exercise have to do so in a contaminated environment.

Five years ago just a handful of states were bold enough to enact comprehensive statewide laws for secondhand smoke protection. Now there are over 20 with more moving forward. If these laws became the "death of businesses" why would so many states be enacting them? Common sense says otherwise.

The mark of an intelligent, informed society is progress. We make progress through medicine, science, technology, research, etc. Think of the examples- we regulate mercury levels so edible fish are not contaminated, we banned DDT to save eagles and other raptors, we regulate asbestos in workplaces, we watch for contaminated food products and have recalls- the list goes on.

Minnesota our neighbor has taken the positive step and enacted a comprehensive law. There are many similarities between our two states - the north woods flavor, lakes and forests, and similar culture. When the media announced that legislation was passed in Minnesota, they quoted it as a "good day and proud day" for the state. Wisconsin should also protect its workers and citizens and be true to its motto "Forward." Everyone deserves this; whether it is a small child at a birthday party, as well as any citizen or employee in any workplace in our great state.

Jeff Melby  
632 Silver Lake Drive  
Portage, WI 53901



**DATE:** May 31, 2007  
**TO:** The members of the Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy  
**FROM:** Didi Heisler,  
6632 Boulder Lane, Middleton, WI 53562  
(608) 831-8518  
**RE:** The Breathe-Free Wisconsin Act (SB150)

I feel that the Senate Bill 150 is crucial to protect ALL workers from second hand smoke. As smoking has been banned in all other places of employment, we now have a situation in which bar and tavern employees are an employed underclass, the ONLY group of workers who are not protected from these toxic, carcinogenic substances. The health affects of second-hand smoke are incontrovertible. Just as we would not allow some patrons in a bar to put poison in the drinks, it makes no sense to allow some patrons to put poison in the air.

Second-hand smoke affects children, causing asthma and increasing the risk of cancer. I have lived in 8 states and the District of Columbia. This is the only place I have lived where children are allowed in bars. If we are going to allow children to accompany adults into bars, then I believe we are OBLIGATED to protect their delicate bodies by making these bars and taverns smoke free.

Finally, my grandfather quit smoking 40 years before he died struggling to breathe from the effects of emphysema (COPD). His doctor made it clear that it was second hand smoke (in the workplace in the 60s, 70s, and 80s and at home where my grandmother continued to smoke) that killed him. My grandfather was a loving and compassionate man who spoiled his daughters and granddaughters with attention. I remember him riding on the kiddy rollercoaster with me when I was too little to ride the big one with the older kids. I grew up with a single mother. It was my grandfather who came to pick me up from school if the nurse called home because I was sick. And when I was a teenager and started dating, it was my grandfather who waited up for me making sure that I got home safely. I remember him standing on the balcony hollering down to me as I got out of the car: "If you're going to get home this late, kiddo, you HAVE to call us!" My son is named after the great-grandfather he never met.

The effects of second hand smoke are not hypothetical. Though not immediate, the effects are devastating and preventable.

Again, I urge your support of this bill when it comes up for a vote. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Didi Heisler, DVM PhD

6632 Boulder Lane  
Middleton, WI 53562  
(608) 831-8518





**DATE:** May 31, 2007

**TO:** The members of the Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy

**FROM:** Darlene Murphy (4709 Splint Road, Madison, WI 53718)

**RE:** The Breathe –Free Wisconsin Act (SB150).

I would like to encourage you to support The Breathe –Free Wisconsin Act (SB150). As I'm sure you're aware, Minnesota passed a bill that will make all workplaces smoke-free beginning October 1, 2007; and Illinois passed a bill that will make all workplaces smoke-free beginning January 1, 2008. In addition, almost two-thirds (64%) of Wisconsin voters support a law that makes all workplaces and public places, including all restaurants and bars, smoke-free. (The Mellman Group/Public Opinion Strategies poll Feb. 2007).

I appreciate the smoke-free air in the city of Madison and hope you can help the entire state adopt this important legislation that improves quality of life and protects the health of all Wisconsin workers. Thank you!



27536 State Hwy 27  
Holcombe, WI 54745

Senator Pat Kreitlow & SB 150 Committee Members  
State Capitol, Room 104, South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

May 26, 2007

Dear Senator Kreitlow & Committee Members,

I am writing to encourage this committee to support Senate Bill 150 which would require all worksites to be tobacco-free. I hope that you each will consider the medical evidence and understand that this is one of the worst illnesses/diseases that our state and country faces. We have spent billions of dollars preparing for emergency preparedness, pandemic influenzas and worrying about the Avian flu, mumps and other communicable diseases. However, this state and the United States continue to ignore the pandemic of tobacco-related illness that affects our communities causing disease and death.

Each of you is sitting with one of the most important decisions you will make that will significantly impact the health of your Wisconsin Constituents. My 13 ½ year old daughter asks "Why would they vote against this; to have people die from tobacco and secondhand smoke?" This addiction kills more people than AIDS, drugs, motor vehicle accidents, alcohol, murders and suicide combined.

Tobacco companies spend over **\$1 million dollars an hour** to target vulnerable populations to smoke, get addicted, and remain addicted to die prematurely from health related illnesses. Tobacco companies continue to throw smoke screens toward policy makers by saying ventilation helps and that government shouldn't be involved in businesses. Well, we have public health laws that govern the safety and protect the health of people in many businesses including food safety, communicable disease control and pool inspections to name a few. We also have building codes, fires codes and electrical codes these private businesses must conform to. These are all safety measures or should they have the right to not have their building wired safely or not have fire safety alarms or appropriate exits? Isn't that a private business decision? It is no different when you look at the safety of people who are working in smoke-filled environments. Workers have a right to be employed in a safe environment rather than being exposed to a Class A Carcinogen. (This is the most dangerous level that a cancer causing agent can be classified!) Their lungs are exposed to one of the most deadliest cancer forming agents, tobacco smoke.

It is a little ironic also that the business / tavern owner saying that government doesn't have any business telling them they need to have clean indoor air, but expects to have affordable health insurance and coverage for themselves and family are not recognizing that tobacco is a drug addiction and significantly impacts the cost of health care. A pack

of cigarettes is like 200 hits of an addictive drug. The pathophysiology involved with nicotine is the same as what is found in any type of drug addiction and dependency. The millions of dollars that are spent treating tobacco-related illnesses is devastating to our health system in regard to the costs of affordable health care. If you are serious about health care, you have to be serious about making our workplaces tobacco-free.

Tobacco companies hired white coat scientists to provide inconclusive data and inaccurate research in reports to raise issues such as a "right to smoke." There is not constitutional amendment that it is a right for anyone to smoke and harm the health of someone else. We should have universal health coverage, but our most significantly addicted patients are those who do not have adequate health insurance to treat tobacco-related illnesses/addictions and they are the ones who tobacco companies will target and keep addicted by fighting clean indoor air initiatives. These clean indoor initiatives help to change the social norm to identify that this behavior/addiction is unhealthy and provides an opportunity for people to quit and/or decrease their use of tobacco.

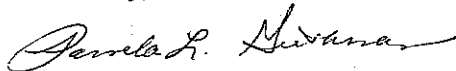
I am from a small rural township called Lake Holcombe. We need the clean indoor air state statute to cover all restaurants, bars, bowling alleys because families often bring their kids in bar/restaurant combinations. One of our family gatherings was at a local bar/restaurant combination for my sister-in-law (my husband and son did not attend and I went for 10 minutes because they have asthma), but during that time, there was a 6 month pregnant woman who didn't want to leave the family gathering for fear of being rude, but also was worried about the secondhand tobacco exposure to her unborn child and to herself. A study a few years ago documents the metabolite cotinine (from nicotine) in the urine of babies who are in homes where there are smokers. Our pregnant women have the right to be able to walk into worksites and indoor recreational sites without having to choose between being ousted from family functions versus the health of their unborn child and themselves, don't they?

Although taverns will say that they will lose business and how awful that government steps in for the health of the public, the reality is that tobacco addicts it kills. Over 75% of the adult population does not smoke. Of the slightly less than 25% of adults that smoke, over 70% of them wish they could quit. If you are truly interested in health care and the costs of health care, you need to know that \$2.02 million is spent in annual health care costs in Wisconsin directly. We lose \$1.64 billion in productivity losses due to smoking in Wisconsin while the tobacco company spends \$15.4 billion in marketing nationwide with \$298.2 million spent in Wisconsin alone. What a difference that would make if public health and tobacco-free initiatives had funding to even combat their advertising and treat medical conditions.

I recently returned from Appleton, WI and would like to tell you how nice it was to be able to go into a tavern and have a drink without secondhand smoke. The people I was with told me that an area tavern owner who fought against their tobacco ban, now has had to open a second tavern due to the increase in business he has with the worksites going tobacco-free. Again, the tobacco companies blew out of proportion that many of our local pubs would go out of business with a tobacco-ban.

I request that you spend some time researching reputable websites that have accurate information for you to reference. I would especially implore you to take some time in reading some of the testimony that was provided during the Tobacco Settlement when tobacco executives' testimonies and documents were produced indicating they knowingly target our young with sweet flavored tobacco products to appeal and addict our teens and how clean indoor air initiatives will decrease their sales revenues. One of the tobacco companies was quoted "We don't smoke that crap. We reserve that for the young, the black, the poor and the stupid." If that doesn't make you outraged, I don't know what else will. The fact that they knowingly addict the young, target minorities, hook the lower-income person and pin point our less educated populations, speaks to every single concept that as an elected public official it is your duty to support legislation that makes our state a more healthier place and to show accountability for the millions of health care dollars spent in this state alone treating tobacco-related illnesses. Some of the websites I would encourage you to look at include: [www.tobaccofreekids.org](http://www.tobaccofreekids.org), [www.smokefreewi.org](http://www.smokefreewi.org), [www.cdc.gov/tobacco](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco), [www.tobaccofreenurses.org](http://www.tobaccofreenurses.org), [www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org](http://www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org), [www.ctri.wisc.edu](http://www.ctri.wisc.edu), [www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org). If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration and I am looking forward to seeing each of you to support the SB 150 as it is currently stated. There is no need to delay taverns instituting such a public health safety measure by granting them extra time to conform.

Sincerely,



Pamela L. Guthman



Members of Senate Public Health Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony today.

I am Judi Zabel, Health Educator at La Crosse County Health Department. I am submitting evidence of La Crosse Counties support for SB 150.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 during a public hearing regarding a smoke free work site ordinance in the city of Onalaska a La Crosse tavern owner, who also stated he was the head of Be Fair Coalition (a local group in opposition to the local ordinance in Onalaska), made the following statements as printed in the hearing minutes, " I hope you really think about this (meaning the Onalaska Ordinance) and push it to a state and make it a level playing field....if you do it, force it state wide..."

On April 10, 2007 the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution recommending legislation that all work places in Wisconsin are smoke free. Exposure to tobacco smoke is the major cause of preventable illness and death in La Crosse County, causing about 130 deaths per year. The La Crosse County Board also resolute that copies of this resolution is sent to Gov. Doyle, Wisconsin Senator Kapanke, Wisconsin Representatives Huebsch and Shilling and the Wisconsin Counties Assoc. to encourage them to protect the health of the people of La Crosse County by approving the proposal for smoke-free workplaces.

It is time for action! It is time for us to join our neighboring states Minn., and Illinois, and be the 21st state to protect the health of the silent majority. It is popular and right thing to do. Nearly two thirds of all voters support a statewide effort to protect workers and patrons of businesses from second hand smoke. As I noted earlier, a member of the Be Fair Coalition and a bar owner in the city of La Crosse favor the statewide Breathe Free Act because it levels the playing field for all businesses and eliminates islands of competition where smoking is allowed.

L a Crosse county board of supervisors supports smoke free workplace legislation for all businesses and encourages you to move the State of Wisconsin forward on this important health issue.







RESOLUTION #

9-4/07

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 31/4

BOARD ACTION

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_  
For: 27  
Against: 11  
Abs/Excd: 2  
Vote Req: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Action: AmendedHEALTH &  
HUMAN  
SERVICES  
BOARD  
ACTIONAdopted: 4/10/07  
For: \_\_\_\_\_  
Against: \_\_\_\_\_  
Abs/Excd: 2RE: SUPPORT SMOKE-FREE WORKPLACE AND TOBACCO TAX INCREASE  
LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's proposed 2007-2009 budget includes legislation that recommends that all workplaces in Wisconsin are smoke-free and that the tax on cigarettes be increased by \$1.25 per pack; and,

WHEREAS, exposure to tobacco smoke is the major cause of preventable illness and death in La Crosse County, causing about 130 deaths per year; and,

WHEREAS, raising the price of tobacco products and assuring smoke-free workplaces have both been shown to significantly reduce disease and death.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to Governor Doyle, Wisconsin Senator Kapanke, Wisconsin Representatives Huebsch and Shilling and the Wisconsin Counties Association to encourage them to protect the health of the people of La Crosse County by approving the proposal for smoke-free workplaces and tobacco tax increase.

COUNTY BOARD AMENDMENT: To add: Tobacco tax to be used exclusively for tobacco education programs.

Date: 4/10/07HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
BOARD CHAIRDate: 4/10/07

RECORDING CLERK

Approved

Not Approved

C/A: 4/10/07F/D: 4/10/07

Requested By: Doug Mormann

Date Requested: March 30, 2007

Drafted By: Corporation Counsel

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board. This 17 Day of April, 2007.



5/26/2007

Members of Senate Public Health committee,

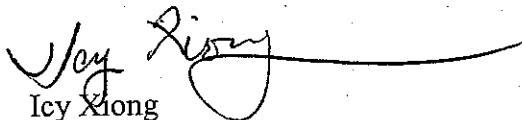
I am Icy Xiong, a member of FACT (Fighting Against Corporate Tobacco) and a Junior at Logan High School, La Crosse, Wisconsin. FACT is a youth lead group which empowers other young people to make informed choices about tobacco by learning the facts about how the tobacco industry targets us. I am here today with my FACT group taking action statewide and in our community to reduce youth tobacco use and prevent our friends from becoming targets of the tobacco industry lies.

The tobacco companies have lied to us all, saying under oath, that their product is not addicting. The tobacco industry said these things even though they knew their own scientists conducted experiments proving that cigarettes contained nicotine and nicotine is addictive.

I have two older brothers, not much older than I, who have tried to stop smoking a couple of times, but the nicotine is too strong and they are addicted. My brothers smoke far from the house because of secondhand smoke and they worry about our family. They encourage me to fight for clean air and a smoking ban in all work places. They think it would help them quit if they were not exposed to secondhand smoke.

By passing SB150, it will make a big difference on me, my family and my community.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Icy Xiong", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Icy Xiong  
2117 Grandview Place  
La Crosse, WI 54601



5/26/2007

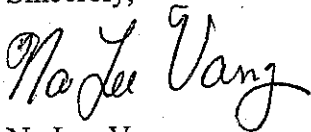
Members of Senate Public Health Committee:

I am Na lee Vang, a Junior at Logan High, La Crosse, WI. I am a member of FACT a youth group that fights against corporate tobacco, not the smokers themselves. I joined FACT so that I could help prevent teens from starting to smoke. During the past year I have been able to expose tobacco lies, and empower other teens to join FACT.

I have just one more year before I leave my home to live on my own and start paying and caring for myself. I am sensitive to the secondhand smoke from cigarettes, and am very limited to where I can work, support myself and attend college. Even now I cannot even enjoy a Saturday night bowling, because of the smoking that is allowed and also in restaurants that have bars attached and no smoking ban.

With a ban in place, everyone will be able to breathe in cleaner air. Although the Tavern League has been saying that profits will be lost, it is just a scare tactic, there is no scientific proof that supports their claim. The tobacco industry influences the Wisconsin Tavern League. Would you really want to trust people that once said under oath, that nicotine was not addicting, when their own scientist had proven that it was? Can you trust people who say that they are not targeting teenagers and yet Philip Morris, one of the largest cigarette producers in the world (Marlboro) said, "We don't smoke it. We just sell it. We reserve that for the young, the black, the poor, and the stupid." With the passing of this ban, we will be able to make it easier for those smokers to quit because they will not be able to smoke just anywhere and those who inhale the secondhand smoke will be able to enjoy bowling and restaurants with bars attached and stay healthy.

Sincerely,



Na Lee Vang  
615 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601



5/26/2007

Members of Senate Public Health Committee;

I am Mee Xiong, seventeen years old, and a Junior attending Logan High School in La Crosse. I am a member of FACT (Fighting Against Corporate Tobacco).

This coming fall I will be taking my ACT tests and preparing for college. Some of those preparations include finding a good job and starting my own savings. But I am worried about the environment around my work sites. This is because I have seen and been to several companies, restaurants, and even hospitals who allow their smoking employees to be smoking inside or at building entrances.

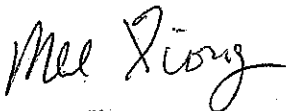
I plan on working in a health care setting after college. I believe the hospital is a second home because the employees are taking care of you and your health. I particularly am confused that not all health care sites are smoke free. Because second smoke has no boundaries, how can I trust that those taking care of me are helping or making my health worse?

I have a nephew who at the age of five was cared for by his Uncle. My nephew has a very strong relationship with both his uncle and father. But both smoke around my nephew. Now he is eight years old and went out for baseball. He noticed he had trouble breathing, gasping harder and harder for air. One afternoon he said this to his mother, "Mom when I grow up I think I will be like dad and uncle...and I want to play baseball." Mom asked him why, he answered, "Listen, I breathe like them." My nephew is now diagnosed with asthma from inhaling the secondhand smoke. My nephew now has a dangerous disease that happened to him when he was young, innocent and did not know anything about secondhand smoke. He just wanted to hang out with his uncle and dad.

Before I joined FACT, I worried a lot about my family, friends and my surroundings. I am proud to be a member of FACT and to do what I can to prevent young children like my nephew from starting to smoke or becoming ill. Passing Senate Bill 150 is a magnificent way to help our community to become healthy and safe.

Thank you for your time and again, you are the ones who can make a difference.

Sincerely,



Mee Xiong  
1227 South Fourth St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601





5/26/2007

Members of Senate Public Health Committee;

My name is Brenda Brown. I am a freshman at Logan High School, La Crosse, Wisconsin.

I am taking up family time to write you this written testimony. FACT means Fighting Against Corporate Tobacco. I am proud to be a FACT member who exposes big tobacco's lies, empowers other youth to stand up and fight back and help everyone understand that FACT is not against smokers but the tobacco industry.

Secondhand smoke affects my life. I am a member of a family of 9. We travel on family trips around the state of Wisconsin during spring, Winter and Summer breaks. When we go on vacation we see and smell people who smoke. Not all businesses have the same protections for its customers. When we go to a restaurant/bar that allow smoking inside, like Nutbush, we all feel very sick and have to change our cloths when we get home. My asthma will act up and I start coughing. Did you know that for every eight smokers the tobacco industry kills, it takes one nonsmoker with them? Or that 53,000 non-smokers, 130 non-smokers in La Crosse county, will die from second hand smoke every year. That is more than murder, drugs, and AIDS combined! It is very frustrating because Nutbush has great food, but an unsafe environment to eat it in. Isn't it the government's responsibility to protect us?

My sister smokes before and after school, and whenever she can at home. Nine out of ten nonsmoking American are exposed to secondhand smoke at least once every two to three days. It is really hard to have a sister that smokes around me. My eight year old brother tries to help her stop smoking. We keep trying to help her, but it doesn't work. She sneaks cigarettes up stairs in her room, she smokes when everyone is sleeping, but it affects me because her room and my room are connected. The smoke comes into my room instead of outside. My mom and dad don't like her smoking and it causes a lot of tension in our home and my life.

I want you to pass SB150 because it will make it easier for my older sister to stop smoking. More people will be quitting, less people will be smoking. I will enjoy her company more, my family will enjoy vacations more, and we can all eat good food at our favorite restaurant/bar knowing that our health and safety are protected.

Thank you for your time,



Brenda Brown  
1519 Kane St  
La Crosse, WI 54603



5/26/2007

Members of Senate Public Health Committee

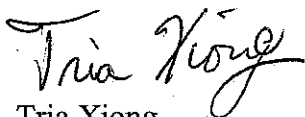
Hi, my name is Tria Xiong, I am a freshman at Logan High School, La Crosse, WI. This is my first year in FACT (Fighting Against Corporate Tobacco) in order to educate others about tobacco lies and prevent others from starting to smoke.

There are two smokers in my family. They smoke outside the house and cars. Though they are pretty far from the door somehow the smoke often make its way into the house and we all get exposed to secondhand smoke. One of my brothers tried mostly anything to stop smoking and he did for six months. Once he is exposed to second hand smoke he started to smoke again and still smoking today. Just a year ago, I was getting ready to go study at my friend's house and my brother was taking me. When I got outside, I saw him leaning on his car while smoking and didn't know what to do, so I went closer and was about to enter the car. But my brother stopped me, and told me to get farther away from him, and that he doesn't want me exposed to secondhand smoke. Although he knows that what he is doing is wrong and bad for his health, he couldn't stop because he was addicted to the nicotine in the cigarette. My brothers who smoke support me and my two sisters for participating in FACT and wouldn't want us to start smoking like them.

Secondhand smoke also impacts me at funerals. Imagine taking a deep breath before entering a certain building and holding it until you left. Every time going to the Hmong funeral building always near the entrance, there would be a room full of smokers and smoke everywhere. The smoke creeps out and into the non-smoking areas where many non-smoking people would breathe it in. When I say people, I don't only mean a certain age, but all ranges of age from at least seven years old to eighty years old are there and would breathe the chemicals in. Though I always hold my breathe in the entrance I know that I would also breath in the harmful chemical into my body. SB 150 would help the Hmong funeral home be smokefree, so relatives (all ages) can come to see the deceased and not be exposed to second hand smoke and not worry about their health.

I want you to pass SB 150 so that all public places would be smoke free and children of young ages won't be exposed to secondhand smoke.

Thank you



Tria Xiong  
2117 Grandview Place  
La Crosse, WI 54601



May 31, 2007

Honorable Members of the Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy Committee;

As a registered nurse and an American Cancer Society Volunteer, I believe the scientific evidence is so compelling that passing a statewide ban on smoking in workplaces is absolutely the right thing to do for our Wisconsin workforce. It is also a smart thing to do to help reduce the burden of the high cost of health care.

SB 150 is much more about health and safety than it is about consumers' choices to smoke or not smoke or choices of employers to run workplaces as they see fit. Second-hand smoke is a serious health threat.

In 2006, in the most comprehensive study ever conducted on secondhand smoke, the Surgeon General concluded **there is no safe level of exposure. "The debate is over,"** Dr. Richard Carmona reported, **"the science is clear. Secondhand smoke is not merely an annoyance but a serious health hazard that can lead to disease and premature death in children and nonsmoking adults."** The report also indicates that people who are regularly subjected to second hand smoke are 25-30% more likely to suffer from heart disease and 20-30% more likely to develop cancer. Recent studies show that workers exposed to second hand smoke have increased symptoms such as congestion, and precursors to emphysema, heart disease, and cancer. When smoking is removed from the environment, symptoms begin to drop immediately and dramatically. I myself am affected whenever I am around second-hand smoke with sneezing, watery eyes, etc.

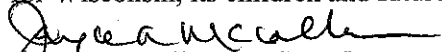
Our own Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services reports that second hand smoke was responsible for 841 deaths in our state in 2005. That is 29 more deaths than were caused by traffic accidents in that year.

A statewide work-place smoking ban would not be government's first regulation of private business nor would Wisconsin be the first state to implement it. We are behind many states and especially our neighboring states of Illinois and Minnesota. In fact, Wisconsin restaurants and bars are already among the most highly regulated establishments in existence. Everything from the temperature of the food served to the cleanliness of the plates is subject to standards far higher than those we hold for our own kitchens. If the level of 40-50 cancer-causing chemicals in the air at a "smoke-friendly" establishment were, instead, detected in food or drink, the place would likely be closed down until the problem was corrected. How can we justify allowing second-hand smoke in work places any longer?

All of us are paying for the increased health care costs due to problems caused by smoking and by second-hand smoke. We pay for it in our health care premiums, our deductibles, and in our taxes for programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and Badger-Care. That cost is huge.

It would be great if the marketplace would always take care of health and safety issues. But it hasn't done that in many instances. The "the marketplace" didn't institute drunk driving laws, hunting bans within city limits, mandatory fire exits and the other safety protections we count on to protect our health and lengthen our lives.

I believe supporting the state-wide workplace smoking ban is simply the right thing to do for Wisconsin, its children and future generations. It'll save lives and save money. It's time!

  
Joyce McCollum, MS, RN

American Cancer Society Volunteer

Brown County ACS Local Leadership Council, Chairperson

WI ACS State Advisory Council Member and Community Presence Comm. Chairperson

Midwest Division of the ACS Cancer Initiative Grants Workgroup Chairperson

Registered Nurse since 1963

1517 N. Bay Highlands Dr. Green Bay, WI 54311 [mccollum@netnet.net](mailto:mccollum@netnet.net)





# Wisconsin Medical Society *Alliance*

TO: Members, Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy  
Senator Tim Carpenter, Chairperson

FROM: Sherry Clarke, RN, BSN  
Wisconsin Medical Society Alliance, President

DATE: May 31, 2007

RE: Support of Senate Bill 150—"Breathe Free Wisconsin Act"

As State President of the Wisconsin Medical Society Alliance—a physician's spouse organization and a partner of the Wisconsin Medical Society—a registered nurse and a concerned citizen, I am here to tell you that I endorse the statewide smoking ban as the right thing to do from a public health perspective, as well as addressing environmental concerns.

Statistics/data and scientific evidence regarding the detrimental health effects of secondhand smoke are plentiful. The Surgeon General's Report of 2006, released in September of last year, states there is NO safe amount of secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke damages the lining of blood vessels, causes platelets to stick together and leads to increased risk of heart attacks. The irritants and poisons contribute to lung disease, allergies, asthma, nasal/sinus infections, ear infections in children and small birth weights in infants. These facts alone should be sufficient enough to support the ban.

As the cost of healthcare continues to climb, many people affected by secondhand smoke are uninsured or underinsured. The State's responsibilities in providing care to these populations have become increasingly more burdensome. My work in discharge planning leads me to see many patients who have smoked or been around smoke in their homes and work areas. These patients struggle with not only health issues, but also with finding funding for their care. It becomes increasingly difficult as a nurse to see the effects of smoking on my patients. Many are children and young adults that have never smoked, but live with and around family/friends that DO smoke. While I don't know if a statewide smoking ban will help current smokers quit, it does eliminate the unclean air that nonsmokers have to inhale in public areas.

I live outside of Appleton—where a citywide ban has been effect for over a year. I can tell you that as a frequent diner at many establishments in the Fox Valley, my husband and I have chosen Appleton—which is smoke-free—over the surrounding communities due to the smoking ban. The food tastes better without the smoke, we don't have to wash our clothes and hair when we return home, and it doesn't linger in our vehicles. Our voices are also not hoarse from the smoke in the bar areas when we leave. As an example, recently we had to attend a birthday party in a village outside of the city, which was filled with smokers. The air was gray. Within two hours our eyes burned, our clothes were beyond the "hang it outside to freshen up" stage, and we had both developed an irritating cough. I never realized until we were able to eat and drink at nonsmoking restaurants and bars how much smoke bothered us.





Additionally, we take the responsibility of keeping our environments clean and free from pollutants—we aren't allowed to dump into our lakes or streams, and we regulate pollutants getting into our environment from industry. Why should cigarette smoke not be viewed the same way? With over 4000 chemicals—250 of which are proven harmful to our health, why would we not regulate smoking in public places to keep those who choose not to smoke safe from the ill effects?

A statewide smoking ban to keep Wisconsin's air clean and healthy is, in my opinion, a "yes!"



Good Afternoon

My name is Shawn Boogaard – I live in Kaukauna and work in Appleton

I am here asking you to support SB150. //

I am told I inherited my grandmother's spunk. If I didn't, I would struggle to stand before you today.

You see, I have no recollection of my mom's mother. She developed breast cancer at age 40 and died 10 years later. She grew up with smokers and spent years as a bartender and bar owner.

The latest research on breast cancer in young women exposed to secondhand smoke, is convincing enough to make me think her cancer was the result of her lifelong exposure.

Back then, the <sup>health risks</sup> ~~secretly~~ knowledge of smoking and secondhand smoke was skillfully concealed in Big Tobacco's secret files/Today, the truth is out! <sup>my grandmother told</sup> Yet 45 years after ~~her~~ death, young women serving us in bars and restaurants still have significant secondhand smoke exposure.

My daughters are lucky – they are parttime bartenders in smoke-free Appleton. On the other hand, my niece

Laura, a college student on summer break is looking for work in the Fox Valley.

Having a parttime job at the mall, hospitality work provides the hours and higher pay to supplement that job. If she can't find work in the city of Appleton, she must put her health at risk for a job in a smoking community.



Even if she was lucky enough to work in Appleton, there are thousands of others like her who will forfeit their health for a paycheck. The majority of hospitality workers are young women the number in Kaukauna and Appleton is between 70 and 85 Percent. I am talking about our daughters, nieces, sisters, granddaughters and neighbors.

The solution to this problem is currently in your hands.

The connection between secondhand smoke and disease and death is undeniable. It is time for Wisconsin to unite with 20 other states including our neighboring states and pass SB150.

This will take courage and commitment as well as a core belief in the foundation of true public health. It will also take having a tough shell to deflect the personal criticisms, accusations and fabrications that you will endure. Having worked on the Appleton campaign, I am all too well aware of that. But, you will also be stopped by many others who with thank you for standing up to the Tobacco Industry.

I can only hope in the near future when you go to a restaurant or bar and a young woman serves you, you will silently reflect on your role in making sure her workplace is free from secondhand smoke.

But, if smoking is still allowed in that workplace then it is this legislature's obligation to explain to her - why.

*Shawn Boogard*  
*721 Maltard Dr.*  
*Kaukauna, WI 54130*  
*(920) 759-2215*



**What will we be remembered for?**

The discussion we are having today is about an important decision, a decision that will change history, a decision that will be remembered. Will we protect people from second hand smoke in all public places in WI or only some?

It reminds me of another time in history that a public health decision was made, that changed history and that is still remembered today. You may have heard of the Tuskegee Study.

When the Tuskegee study started 75 years ago...syphilis was an awful disease but the only treatment available was also awful. After the study started, new information led to a newer, safer treatment...penicillin.

This was when a critical decision was made...that treatment was made available to some people but not all. Treatment was withheld from the men participating in the study.

Information and treatment that would have improved people's health was not shared equally. That is the decision that is remembered...and that is the parallel that we face today in Wisconsin. Today, you have the power to protect all Wisconsin residents equally.

**What will we be remembered for today?**

We now have solid evidence that second hand smoke is dangerous to our health.

We have a proven strategy, a state-wide smoke free air law, that protects all people equally from that danger.

Today a decision will be made. What will we be remembered for? Protecting some Wisconsin residents....or all?

Respectfully submitted by Julie Swanson  
27 Frederick Circle, Madison, WI





Testimony before the Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care and Privacy

May 31, 2007

Madison, Wisconsin

From: Cristine Reischl

7163 Horizon Drive

Greendale, Wisconsin 53129

[creischl@hotmail.com](mailto:creischl@hotmail.com)

cc: Representative Stone, Senator Mary Lazich

I am one of the "invisible" people bar owners don't see. I'd like to go to a bar sometimes. But they're usually way too smoky.

Secondhand smoke annoys me. However, the 2006 Surgeon General's report has proven that it is also a significant health hazard. Even a brief exposure is harmful. There are serious immediate and long term consequences. Such as heart disease and cancer. The scientific evidence is massive and conclusive and the only way to protect people is to eliminate their exposure. So I avoid exposure by avoiding restaurants, bars, and public places where smoking is allowed.

I am not the only one who does this. I belong to the majority of Wisconsin residents—the 80% who don't smoke and who don't like to breathe secondhand smoke. Many of us vote with our feet and avoid smoky places—especially bars.

I have experienced a different way. My sons live in New York City and Denver, and my grandchildren live in Madison. When I visit these places, it is a pleasure to go out to restaurants and bars. I stay longer and spend more.

the first of these is the fact that the  
the second is the fact that the

the third is the fact that the

the fourth is the fact that the

the fifth is the fact that the

the sixth is the fact that the

the seventh is the fact that the

the eighth is the fact that the

the ninth is the fact that the  
the tenth is the fact that the

the eleventh is the fact that the  
the twelfth is the fact that the  
the thirteenth is the fact that the  
the fourteenth is the fact that the  
the fifteenth is the fact that the  
the sixteenth is the fact that the  
the seventeenth is the fact that the  
the eighteenth is the fact that the

the nineteenth is the fact that the  
the twentieth is the fact that the  
the twenty-first is the fact that the

the twenty-second is the fact that the  
the twenty-third is the fact that the  
the twenty-fourth is the fact that the

20 states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico have passed comprehensive smoke free laws, covering bars, restaurants, and workplaces. Studies in these states have shown that business didn't decline. Don't let Wisconsin be the last state willing to protect citizens and workers.

In Greendale, I work with youth. We encourage youth not to smoke and to avoid exposure to secondhand smoke because of the health consequences. However, when high school students go to get jobs, many of them find themselves working in restaurants or the hospitality industry where they are exposed to secondhand smoke. Food service workers have a significantly greater risk of lung cancer than the general public, due in part to their exposure to secondhand smoke at work.

We can protect our children, all workers, and Wisconsin citizens by passing the smoke free workplace bill. We can protect the 850 Wisconsin residents who currently die each year from diseases caused by secondhand smoke exposure.

It's time for Wisconsin to enact a comprehensive statewide smoke-free law. That's not just my opinion—64% of Wisconsin voters support a law that makes all workplaces and public places—including restaurants, bars, and bowling alleys--smoke-free. (The Mellman Group and Public Opinion Strategies. Smoke Free Laws in Wisconsin, February 2007)

It's time to breathe free!!

It's time Wisconsin!!



## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

610 S BROADWAY STREET  
P. O. BOX 23600

GREEN BAY WISCONSIN 54305-3600  
PHONE (920) 448-6400 FAX (920)448-6449  
www.co.brown.wi.us/health

JUDY FRIEDERICHs, R.N., B.S.N.

DIRECTOR

May 31, 2007

TO: Chairperson, Senator Tim Carpenter, and Members,  
Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term  
Care and Privacy

FROM: Judy Friederichs, RN  
Director

RE: Support for SB 150, the Breathe Free Act

**This is to express support for SB 150 with no exemptions.**

The Brown County Board of Health at its April meeting voted in support of a statewide smoke-free workplace ordinance with no exceptions. A letter was sent out to all local legislators by Dr. Jay Tibbetts, Acting Chairperson. Additionally, the Brown County Board at its May meeting *failed to pass* a resolution opposing SB 150.

The adverse health effects of secondhand smoke are well documented. By now, you have heard much testimony detailing these effects, and quoting the most recent 2006 Surgeon General's report on secondhand smoke. One of the basic concepts in that report was that there is no safe level of secondhand smoke.

The risk of exposure is not only to the employees, but other employees whose work takes them into other businesses. Such is the case with health department inspectors, for example, who must do their work in licensed establishments daily.

One of the counter-arguments often expressed is concern for the intrusion on individual or business rights. First of all, the right to breathe clean air is a priority over the right to pollute. Also, regulations to promote health and safety are already integrated into our society. Some of these include codes related to inspecting licensed establishments, OSHA regulations, traffic laws, alcohol use laws, etc.

There have also been studies showing that clean indoor air policies do not have a negative impact on business beyond the normal rate of turnover in a given year. This data is available from the many states and municipalities who have had numerous years of experience with such an ordinance.

I don't believe that the trend is going to reverse itself to allowing more smoking in public places. Given this, why would we not want our citizens to enjoy improved health care and a related improvement in health care spending *sooner rather than later*?



# Prepared Comments of Dennis K. Reischl

## Testimony before the Senate Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care and Privacy

May 31, 2007  
Madison, Wisconsin

From: Dennis K. Reischl  
7163 Horizon Drive  
Greendale, WI 53129  
[dreischl@wi.rr.com](mailto:dreischl@wi.rr.com)

cc: Representative Stone, Senator Lazich

I appreciate the opportunity to speak here today.

But I am amazed—and frankly rather appalled—to find that this matter is even up for debate.

What is being considered, as I understand it, is the continued exposure of not only workers, but also members of the public—including children—to the hazards of second-hand tobacco smoke.

How, as someone once said, did it ever get this crazy?

We certainly are not considering letting this go on because we're not sure whether second-hand smoke presents a hazard.

Some want to quibble about how great that hazard might be.

But not even the tobacco industry tries anymore to pretend that no hazard exists—as they did for decades with primary tobacco exposure.

Nor is there any doubt that workers employed in places that allow smoking are faced with a cruel choice: Either take your chances of contracting a terrible, often terminal disease, or leave your job.

That simply is not a reasonable—or necessary—choice to force upon our fellow citizens.

Nor does it reflect the manner in which we have dealt with other airborne health hazards in the workplace.





Take asbestos, for example.

When we became fully aware of its lethal potential—which, by the way, is far less than that of tobacco smoke—we did not go to employers and ask whether they would find it convenient to remove it from their places of business.

Or whether they thought that cleaning up their act might be less profitable.

We didn't ask workers if they would mind trading the risk of lung cancer for the sake of a paycheck.

Nor did we sidetrack our attention to a debate on just how deadly asbestos might be at various levels—and then try to decide what level of workplace exposure to lung cancer might be “acceptable.”

Instead, we did the right thing. We outlawed a known killer from the workplace.

Now is the time to kick another known killer out of the workplaces of Wisconsin.

And an opportunity for us to affirm that even those who work in the lowest paid service jobs, should not have to trade their lives for a chance to earn a living.

Thank you.

Dennis K. Reischl  
7163 Horizon Drive  
Greendale, WI 53129

